

The Role of the CFI

Challenges and Opportunities in
Engaging the Millennial, Transient
Flight Instructor

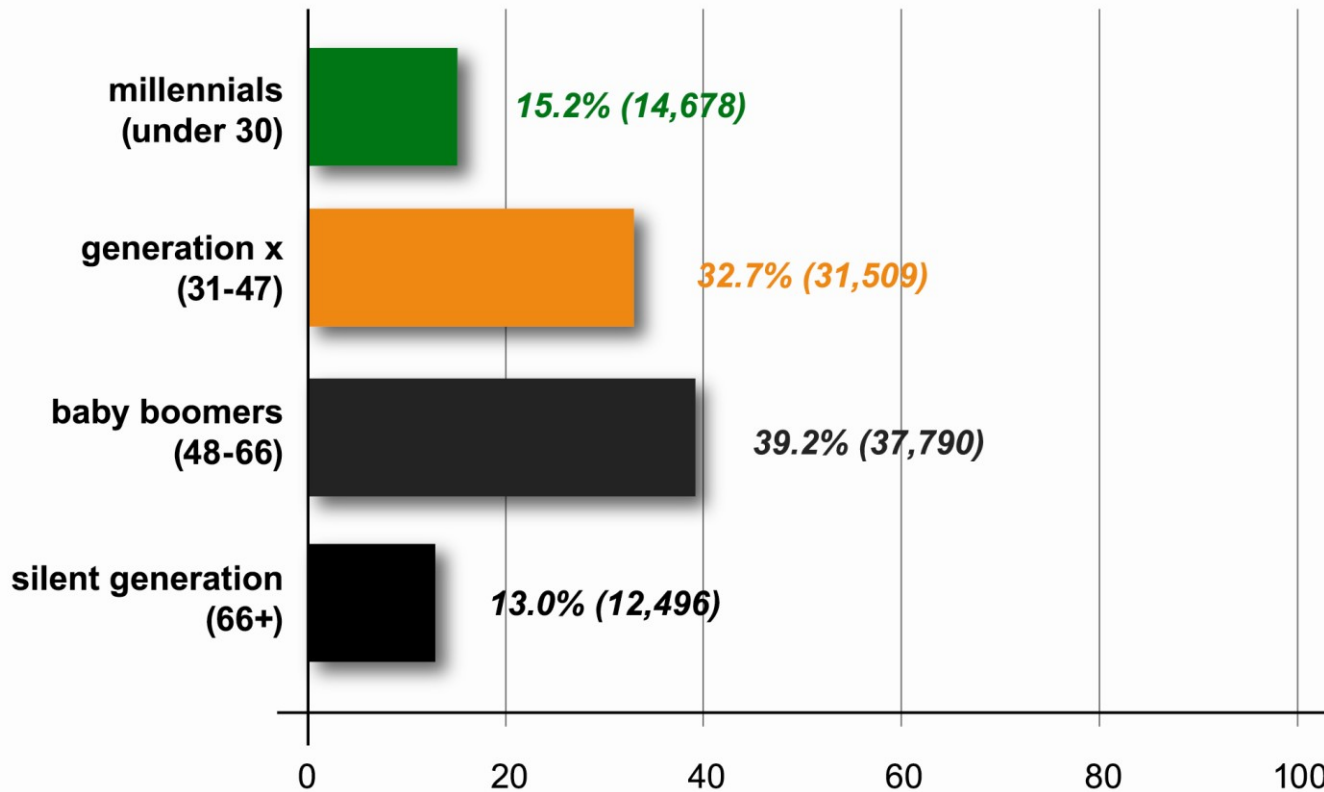
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Age Groups of Current CFIs

According to 2010 FAA data

FAA Flight Instructor Age Groups



Who is actually conducting the majority of flight training?

Millennial (under 30 year olds)

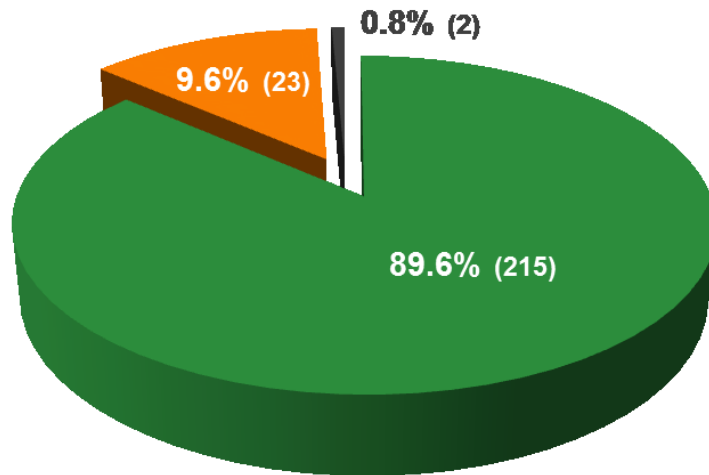
Transient (Flight instructing not long term career goal)



Millennial Data

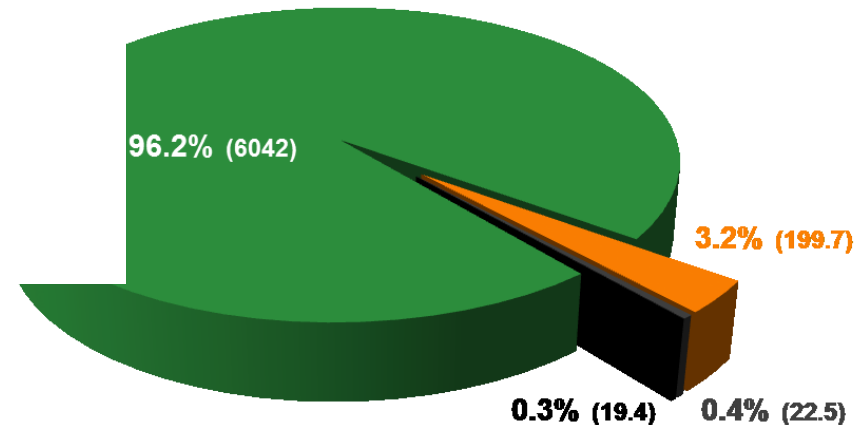
Flight Instructor Age Group *(total: 240)*

■ millennials ■ generation x ■ baby boomers



Flight Training Hours *(total: 6283.6)*

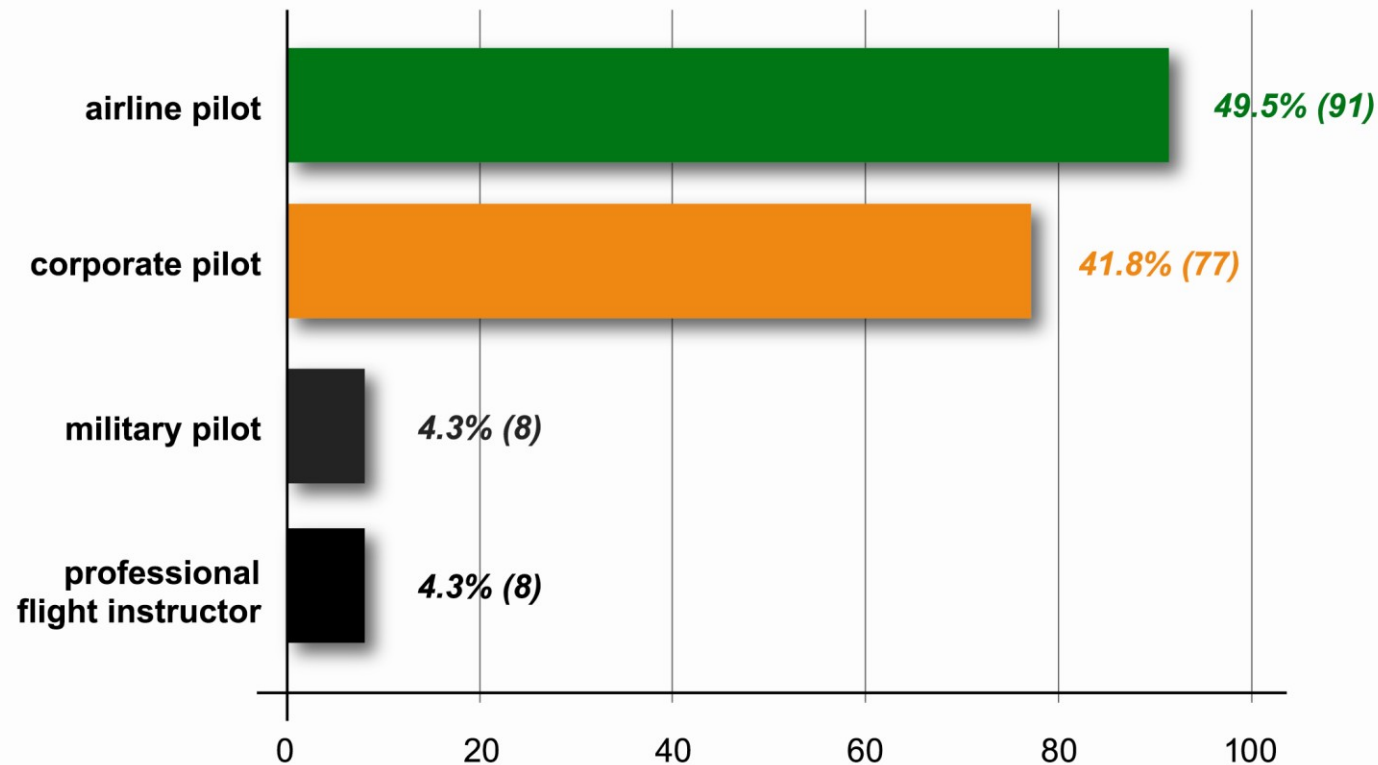
■ millennials (under 30) ■ generation x (31-47)
■ boomers (48-66) ■ silent generation (66+)



Transient Data

Career Aspirations

What is your long term career goal (within the next 15 years)?



University Aviation Programs versus Others

- Flight Academies (Part 141 and 142)
 - Very similar CFI demographics to university programs
 - Average age mid-20s
 - Aspire to be professional pilots
- Part 61 Flight Schools
 - Slightly different CFI make-up
 - Over half of the full-time CFIs were under age 30
 - (50%, 69%, 80%)
 - Mentioned more use of part-time older CFIs



What does this mean in regards to the Role of the CFI on General Aviation Safety?

Challenges

Opportunities



Challenges in Ensuring GA Safety

- Millennial Flight Instructors
 - Highly prefer structure and organization
 - Part 61 versus Part 141 flight training environments
 - Dislike ambiguity
 - Struggle seeing the big picture, very myopic
- Transient Flight Instructors
 - In a constant state of turnover
 - Safety initiatives must be repeated
 - Lack of a large scale experience base with active CFIs



Opportunities to Enhance GA Safety

- Millennial Flight Instructors
 - Technologically savvy, coupled with imaginative
 - UND Aerocast – 3.6 million downloads
 - Engage this group with new uses of technology
 - Involved in Community Service
 - FAASTeam opportunities
- Transient Flight Instructors
 - Motivated by first ‘flying’ job
 - Bring in new ideas and initiatives



Conclusion

- Without a doubt, the role of the CFI is crucial in promoting overall General Aviation Safety
 - We must better understand who these CFIs are, so that we can:
 - Engage them in the discussion about safety
 - Utilize their talents, motivation and insights
 - Better equip them with tools to use to promote safety

